



THE TORCH

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Able, Active and Qualified
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The Student Newspaper of Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College

A LITTLE LOVE, EVERYDAY

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It's that time of the year again: Valentine's Day. The day where we exchange gifts or cards with those special someones, or hope that we can be someone's Valentine.

But love is about more than just a single day. It's a bonding force that holds together the human race. Without love, there could be no peace, calm or stability; wars would simply never end. Bigger still, it is even a force that safeguards our entire planet—because if we don't hold this planet in our affections, we will soon find that we have drained its natural resources, and life itself will be at an end.

There's a lot of hate around at the moment. Politicians here, and abroad, sow seeds of division simply to advance their political careers. Angry young individuals, blinded by hate, commit terrorist

atrocities in cities across the world. Conflicts like those in Syria seem never-ending. Even here in school we are not immune to manifestations of hatred.

If we think about it too much, the future seems bleak.

But there is a remedy.

For every act of aggression we witness, we should respond with two acts of love. We should stand united—as one school, as one community, as one people of Earth—and say no to those who would tear us down.

So next time you see a chance to display a little kindness, take it. That might be as simple as putting a bit of rubbish in the bin, holding a door open for someone, or just smiling at someone looking sad.

Show a little love, everyday.

4	2			6				9	
	6		5	8	9			1	
	8				1	6	3	7	
	1		6						
		7				2			
					4			7	
1	4	2	7					5	
3			8	9	5			4	
9			1					6	3

Sudoku

Created by Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7

How to solve the puzzle: The objective is to fill a 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9. You cannot repeat numbers along any row, column or within a box.

Please return completed puzzles to Miss Taylor. The first five winners will receive a small prize, and others will receive merits.

If you were a winner last issue, please also collect your prize.



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

When I last wrote an article for *The Torch*, we were applying the finishing touches to the Christmas Hampers that each tutor group prepares for local elderly residents. I am delighted to advise you that the 'Best in School' was from Tutor Group 7HS. However, the standard was very high across all tutor groups and it is certainly very moving to receive the heartfelt thanks of recipients.

Towards the end of last term, we also had our Year 13 Presentation Evening, where we were delighted to welcome back the largest number of former students that any of us could remember. It was a real delight to hear about how they were adapting to university, apprenticeships or the world of work, and how they were adapting to cooking and ironing.

Current Y13 Dance students re-created their own mesmerising version of 'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party' in December, developing their own interpretation of a professional work by 'ZooNation', performed over three evenings. The final event of last term was the Christmas Concert – a very entertaining mixture of popular and Christmas music, from students across all year groups. Mr Morley had prepared the musicians and Messers Powell and McIntosh provided the entertainment between acts.

We have now had published the national performance tables for last year's Y13 results and they make for outstanding reading. Our Level 3 Value-Added Progress Score placed us comfortably top in Rotherham for A-level results and 3rd across the whole of all South Yorkshire Local Authorities. This includes being well ahead of all sixth form colleges in the region. For Vocational (BTEC) subjects, we were placed 2nd in Rotherham and 6th across the whole of South Yorkshire.

Year 13 students had their Preliminary (Mock) Exams earlier this term. They have also now completed their applications for further study. Students will spend the next few weeks at Visit Days or Interviews before deciding on their final two choices.

The sixth form and Year 11 pastoral support teams have just completed two evenings of interviewing potential Year 12 students for next academic year. Some 248 students have already been, or are booked in to be, interviewed and have expressed a serious desire to join us in September. A third of these are from local secondary schools other than Wath. Our external students add a real richness to the sixth form community. All have been asked to bring their most recent Report with them, as we assess motivation, attendance and punctuality as well as academic progress. Certainly, attendance at lessons is essential for success and we are



currently on a drive in school to reach 96% attendance. Please do help support us in your child attending school when at all possible.

This is a particularly busy time for Year 11 students, who are preparing for GCSE exams and the completion of BTEC courses. An extensive programme of support and revision has begun and will run every evening, and many lunchtimes, until the end of the examination period. Parents will have received a timetable and a letter informing them which evenings students must attend but they are, of course, welcome to attend others as well. Parents of Year 11 students will shortly be notified of the study programme that will run through the Easter and May holidays. We have been pleased so far with students' responses to these extra sessions but urge Y11 parents to ensure that their child takes full advantage of what is on offer. I am very appreciative that staff in all subject areas are giving of their time so willingly to support students, not only beyond the school day but also in the holidays.

The National Performance Tables also demonstrate the considerable progress we made at Key Stage 4 last summer, where we were placed 5th out of the sixteen Rotherham secondaries. It is particularly pleasing to note the success we enjoyed with our most disadvantaged students last year. We continue to work closely with Mr David Sutton, National Leader of Education and Chief Executive Officer of Maltby Learning Trust, to secure further school improvement.

Final preparations are underway for our annual Gym, Dance and Movement Evening performances, which will take place on 6, 7 and 8 February. Our own students and pupils from our feeder primary schools will, I'm sure, once again provide high quality, creative performances to three appreciative audiences. All three evenings are already almost sold out - If you haven't been able to get tickets this year, please do try to come along next year.

Year 9 and Year 10 students have recently had the opportunity, joined by parents, to discuss their progress to date with their Tutors at Review Days. Year 10 students have also received information about their 'Enterprise' activities for this term. Our final Reviews for this half term take place on 8 February for Year 13 and 9 February for Year 11. There is a very important evening coming up for our Year 8 students and their parents, when they will be invited to our 'Next Three Years Evening' on Tuesday 6 March. This is the evening where students are advised of our Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11) pathways and courses. These students will shortly be receiving further information about the different subjects available in Year 9 in assemblies, in preparation for that evening.

I am concerned about how much our young people seem to want to spend on their mobile devices. At the moment, they are allowed to use them in break and lunch times in areas such as their social areas and outside. However, the increased time on such devices seems to be having a negative impact on the ability to positively converse with one another and we have seen an increase in the incidence of the misuse of social media. As a result, we will be modifying our policy on the use of mobile phones, for all students, after the Easter holiday. Although students will still be allowed to bring them to school, for safety reasons, they will then be required to keep them turned off and out of sight at all times, unless a teacher specifically authorises their use to aid learning in class. I would like to call on your support when this is introduced in April. If you need to contact your child in an emergency then please contact the school office and they will get a message directly to your child. Similarly, if your child needs to contact you for any reason, we ask that they do this via the school office.

Your continued support of the school is very much appreciated.

Some dates for your diary for next half term:

- New half term begins for students - Monday 19 February
- Year 8 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers – Tuesday 20 February, 3.30 – 6 pm
- Year 12 Students' & Parents' Consultation Evening with Subject Teachers – Tuesday 27 February, 3.30 – 6 pm
- Next Three Years Evening (for Y8 students & parents) – 6.30 – 9 pm, Tuesday 6 March

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Taylor

Headteacher

News in Brief

Result of the Christmas decorations

by Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7

Now the new year has arrived, let's check out the result of last year's activities: the Christmas Decoration competition. The winner of this house activity is Sparta, second is Rome and the third is Carthage!

Y7 Winners:

1st—Sophie Brookes

2nd—Faith Hepinstall

3rd—Summer Wild

Y8 Winners:

1st—Lucy Andrews

2nd—Leila Wood

3rd—Megan Burns

Congratulation to those people and I'm hoping that next year has different winners and everyone will work hard for it!

Science Live 2018

On 23rd January, 38 Y9 and Y10 students attended the Science Live conference at Sheffield City Hall in Sheffield. Here we attended lectures on The Discovery of Exo-Planets, Recycling Materials, Evolution without Fossils and The Study of the Surface of the Sun.

This was accompanied by a talk by Professor Lord Robert Winston, a pioneer of IVF treatment. The students enjoyed the talks and it allowed them to view areas of science that they can specialise in during further education. It also provided them with an insight into career options if they go on to study Science based degrees.

The Christmas hamper result

By Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7

As mentioned in Mr Taylor's article, the overall winner is 7HS, whose hamper looked like Santa with his tummy open. They said, "We are very happy that our hamper has won." The other winners included: 7AU, 8WD, 9BY, 10EV, 11KB, 12CN, 13RMC. Highly commended were: 7BL, 8BH, 9TR, 10NK, 11PD, 12JE, 13DK, BSU.

Music Exams

Congratulations to the following on their recent ABRSM Music Exams:

- Simone Moore Grade 5 Theory Merit
- Rowan Howat Grade 4 Flute Merit
- Rowan Howat Grade 5 Recorder Merit
- Lucy Hepworth Grade 2 Piano Distinction
- Olivia Marson Grade 2 Piano
- Leah Saxton Grade 4 Electric Guitar Merit

Updates from Wath Comprehensive

A level Biology Field Trip: Cranedale Centre

By Abigail Hampson, Year 13



On 30th November 2017, we took part in a 2 day residential at the Cranedale Centre as part of the practical aspect of our A level Biology course. Within the 2 days we spent there we had the chance to develop out knowledge about Ecology as we examined and analysed the stages of succession, alongside an investigation into the abundance of certain aquatic organisms in relation to wave exposure on Filey Brigg.

Day 1 was spent at the picturesque Cranedale Centre where we roamed the ground and walked to the village to investigate succession; the snow that accompanied us making they day all the more enjoyable. Following this we returned to the classroom to plan our investigation for the following day.

Day 2, we ventured to Filey Brigg to carry out our tailored experiments by the sea shore, an equally enjoyable and enlightening day. We left the Cranedale Centre with a solidified knowledge on Ecology and the skills required to succeed in our A level exams thanks to the experienced and enthusiastic staff.



Guest Speaker for y7s

By Ngai Wa Yuen, Year 7

A few weeks before the half term, Y7 were having a speech about “7 secrets of success” so let’s have a look at it!

1. Get expert advice
2. Listen
3. Take notes
4. Think different
5. Use your initiative
6. Ignore negative people
7. Set target

I found it interesting because our guest – Kevin – was testing us and we played a game about connecting nine dots with only four, three and one line. Another Y7, Elena, really loved it because the Y7s got involved. Another Y7, Joe, really liked it because he thought the 7 ways of success was very useful! So as you can see, the speech went down really well with all Y7s !

Teachers’ favourite Disney Songs

By Elena Cretu, Year 7

All the songs here are nominated by teachers at Wath Comprehensive, and are in rank order. (Unfortunately, not every teacher could be asked - some were a bit grumpy and didn’t want to choose!)

1. Hakuna Matata (from *The Lion King*)
2. Circle of Life (from *The Lion King*)
3. Let it Go (from *Frozen*)
4. Tale as Old as Time (from *Beauty and the Beast*)
5. Prince Ali (from *Aladdin*)
6. Under the Sea (from *The Little Mermaid*)
7. How Far I’ll Go (from *Moana*)
8. I See the Light (from *Tangled*)
9. Be our Guest (from *Beauty and the Beast*)
10. You’ve Got a Friend in Me (from *Toy Story*)
11. Just Can’t Wait to be King (from *The Lion King*)
12. Bibidi-bobidi-boo (from *Cinderella*)
13. Part of you Yorld (from *The Little Mermaid*)
14. Mickey Mouse Club (which is as old as Mr. Harper!)

Nothing Says Love Quite Like...

By Cadence Taylor, Year 7

It's that time of year again...VALENTINE'S DAY. This is the day when you celebrate your love for someone. February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains traces of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. On Valentine's Day, we give gifts. Here are some great ideas:

Personalised teddy bear in a gift tin.

**£19.99 from
Prettybox.com.**

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

But if you don't fancy buying something as an expression of your love, then why not get into the kitchen and bake something instead? Here is a delicious treat that your special somebody will love:

Salted caramel popcorn pots

Ingredients:

- 400ml double cream
- 200ml milk
- 140g toffee popcorn, plus a little to serve
- gelatine leaves
- 4 tbsp caramel
- ¼-½ tsp flaky sea salt

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Personalised key to my heart keyring.

**£14.99 from
Prettybox.com.**

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Carve your own wood card-wooden postcard.

**£3.49 from
Findmeagift.com.**

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Cadbury Roses chocolates.

£3.00 from Tesco.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

A dozen red roses.

£20.00 Tesco.

Method:

1. Pour the cream and milk into a large pan, add the popcorn and bring to a gentle simmer, pushing the popcorn under the liquid and squashing gently on the bottom of the pan. Bubble for 1 min, then remove from the heat, transfer to a jug and chill for at least 6 hrs, or preferably overnight.
2. Strain the popcorn cream back into a clean pan and gently reheat, discarding the remaining bits of popcorn. Meanwhile, place the gelatine leaves in cold water to soften for 3-5 mins. When the popcorn cream is steaming and the gelatine is soft, remove it from the water and squeeze out any excess drops. Place in the hot popcorn cream and stir until dissolved. Set aside to cool a little.
3. Mix the caramel with the sea salt – start with 1/4 tsp, taste, then add more if you think it needs it. Divide the salted caramel between 2 glasses or pots. Pour the popcorn cream on top and chill for at least 2 hrs, or overnight.
4. Serve each pot topped with a few pieces of toffee popcorn and dive in!

How to Live: Mental Wellbeing,

Anxiety and what to do

By Lucille Lowery Y8

Anxiety is a general term for several disorders that cause nervousness, fear, apprehension, and worrying.

These disorders affect how we feel and behave and can cause physical symptoms. Mild anxiety is vague and unsettling, while severe anxiety can seriously affect day-to-day living.

What causes anxiety?

Anxiety disorders have a complicated network of causes, including:

- Environmental factors, such as stress from a personal relationship, job, school, finances, traumatic event, or even a shortage of oxygen in high-altitude areas.
- Genetics.
- Medical factors, such as the side effects of medicine, symptoms of a condition, or stress from a serious underlying medical condition.
- Brain chemistry.
- Use of or withdrawal from an illicit substance.

Excessive anxiety is most commonly triggered by the stress of day-to-day living and any combination of the above. It is usually a response to outside forces, but it is possible that anxious feelings can emerge from a person telling himself or herself the worst will happen.

Anxiety can result from a combination of one or more of the above. For example, a person may respond to stress at work by drinking more alcohol or taking illicit

substances, increasing anxiety.

Diagnosis

A mental health professional can diagnose anxiety and identify possible causes.

The physician will take a careful medical and personal history, perform a physical examination, and order laboratory tests if needed. These tests may provide useful information about a medical condition that may be causing anxiety symptoms.

To receive a diagnosis of generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), a person must:

- Experience excessive worry and be anxious about several different events or activities on more days than not for at least six months.
- Find it difficult to control the worrying.
- Have at least three anxiety symptoms on more days than not in the last six months, including restlessness, fatigue, irritability, muscle tension, difficulty sleeping, and difficulty concentrating.

Symptoms must interfere with daily living, causing absence from work or school.

If there is no specific cause for the anxiety and worry, a physician will diagnose GAD. In cases related to a clearer cause, a different diagnosis may be reached.

What Are The Symptoms?

The symptoms can include the following: sweating, dizziness, trembling, increased or irregular heartbeat, back pain, restlessness and fatigue, muscle tension, being easily startled, recurring and ongoing feelings of

THE ANONYMOUS

There's a new group in town! Ba dum tsss! Oh NEVER MIND!

If you have a concern about anything, big or small, just fill out the form in the library and place it in the box. Your concerns will be answered in *The Torch*, and the best part is, it will all be anonymous!

It's simple!

#whatsyourconcern

Advice and Guidance in 2018

worry, with or without known stressors, avoidance of certain situations that may cause worry, often affecting quality of life.

It is crucial that passing feelings of anxiety are seen as temporary to avoid increasing the amount of worry and the risk of an anxiety disorder. However, it is also important not to ignore symptoms of anxiety disorders so that timely treatment can be received. People with an anxiety disorder often present symptoms similar to clinical depression and vice-versa. It is rare for a patient to exhibit symptoms of only one of these conditions.

How can you treat it?

Treating a person with anxiety depends on the causes of the anxiety and individual preferences. Often, treatments will consist of a combination of psychotherapy, behavioural therapy, and medication.

Alcohol dependence, depression, or other conditions can sometimes have such a strong effect on the individual that treating the anxiety disorder must wait until any underlying conditions are brought under control.

What To Do If You're Being Stalked

By Lucille Lowery, Year 8

More than one million people are thought to be victims of stalking every year, according to official estimates. While a majority of the victims are women, men face high rates too and the impact of stalking can be devastating.

So what can you do if you are worried you're being stalked?

The legal definition of stalking is unusual as it relies on the effect it has on a victim to decide whether or not a crime has been committed.

1. Talk to someone. The most important thing is to tell someone; if nobody knows what's going on, that gives the stalker the opportunity to keep on going. If people know, they can do things to keep you safe and they can take power away from the stalker.

2. Record what's happening. Keep a log of any events or contact. It helps you understand the pattern of behaviour. Also, if you do go to the police or take any formal action, it gives you a really clear picture of what's been going on. It can also give enough evidence.

3. Take digital safety seriously. About 40% of people who experience stalking do so online. Ensure friends' and family's social media is as secure as it possibly can be- don't let people post pictures of you or check you in to places, for example.

4. Vary your routine. This will throw the stalker off guard to make you have time to run away from them, making them leave you alone.

5. Call the police. If at any point, you feel unsafe for any reason, you need to be calling 999, so the police can be on board as early as possible. We know that the sooner there's some kind of formal intervention, the sooner it's likely to stop. Stalkers don't generally stop on their own.

What do our favourite emojis really mean?

By Phoebe Orwin, Year 7

We all love using emojis to add that perfectly cute touch to our texts. But do you actually know what they mean?



While most people think this emoji means someone is dying, it's actually an astonished face. So really you should use it if you're shocked, not dying.

Often people use this as a shooting star, but it actually symbolises dizziness!



Many people get confused with what this emoji even is. It actually represents silence.

This emoji is a cute way of describing close friendship.



This one has 2 meanings: 1. Sealing a deal. 2. Greeting a friend.

In Japan, this is recognised as a symbol for deep embarrassment but it's also used for great thirst.



This emoji is used as a look of triumph, maybe after winning an argument.

DEBATE: should students be allowed

Education to Vacation

Should education always overtake the option of holidays?

By Tiesha Mai Pearce, Year 10

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Memories of children laughing and enjoying themselves on holidays are not simply wasted moments of time; they are shared moments that bring families together, cherished throughout generations.

Lately, a man named Jon Platt refused to pay his £120 fine for his daughter because he thought it was ridiculous that schools punish parents for time out of school. For many adults and children, to go on a holiday is not always easy: it may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, made only possible during term time when holidays become cheaper. In my opinion, the government controls children far too much, denying them opportunities to learn through experience, taking away parents' rights.

Teachers argued that "students don't learn anything on holidays, they just lounge in the sun or by the pool all day." However, I disagree with this statement because some holidays can be educational and they learn to experience something for themselves, rather than being told from someone else's point of view; for example, in History, people argue the war is bad and wrong because they were fighting over countries and there was no point to it. But there is no replacement for actually going to a historic warzone to see the ruin first hand. Furthermore, students are most likely to trust adults in such places to give true accounts of

what they know about these events.

Another comment was made that "if students go off on holidays during term times, they miss a vital chunk of their learning," but in my opinion, I suggest that students can easily catch up, as they are given enough homework and revision. Also, don't students sometimes deserve a break, after stress through assessments and exams?

Many people hate how students already have so many holidays off and say they just need to be grateful, and have school trips. In addition to this, some say it affects your attendance and looks bad on the school's reputation. But think of other siblings who might be at different schools, and might not have the same school holidays; it just isn't fair to deprive them of a chance to be together, just so that the schools look good.

We need to give parents the right to know what's best for their children; we should all make sure it's not just one sided.

Students today hardly see the outside world. They spend at least 8 hours a day of indoor activity, in school, staring into the screen or a piece of paper. If we don't allow them to go on holidays, this makes the situation even worse. Being outside can be very inspiring. Take Amy Lee, most famous for *Nightmare Before Christmas*, who went to outdoors camp to play the piano and spent time away from home. Now she's a singer. So term time holidays really can make a difference to a person's life. Of course, we won't all end up famous, but it can help with daily life, from allowing you to do something you love to taking away stress.

So stop, stop and think who's really in the wrong. Schools that ban term-time holidays are not only punishing parents but students too. How can some be expected to learn if their main feeling is that they are TRAPPED? Trapped by fear and not able to achieve their dream or do anything, apart from worry.

to go on holidays during term time?

Holidays now deemed wrong?

Have you ever considered the real cost of a term-time holiday? It's more than just the money.

By Anonymous, Year 10

Travel is an essential part of a young student's life; this is why they have half term and weeks off provided by school. This time is where they can go on holiday and learn about different cultures and learn to respect different lifestyles that are scattered around different countries.

However, some families are still taking holidays during term time, which means they must pay a fine; in 2015-16, almost 150,000 families were hit with penalties for taking children out of school, amounting to a staggering £9m in fines. This does not make much sense as parents can easily prevent this by only going on holiday during school holidays.

One reason why a holiday during term-time would be the wrong thing to do would be that the holiday won't necessarily be educational in any way. Even worse, it may affect the student's grades at the end of the year and cause them to have a bad start in life. Various reports have been undertaken to explore the link between attendance and attainment, and the link cannot be disputed; a Government report in 2016, for example, found that pupils with no absence are 2.8 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent including English and mathematics than pupils missing 15-20% of KS4 lessons. Not taking holidays could prevent missed time and learning opportunities, such as time that could be spent preparing for prelims and actual tests.

It's easy to see why attendance has such a big impact. Take a subject like English, where part of the course requires a student to read a series of books, plays and poems. Imagine a student took a three week holiday to America at a time when the class was reading through a complicated 19th century novel. That student would come back part way through, with no clue about what is going on in the story. Their learning for the rest of the half term would be hindered by their lack of understanding

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

about the start of the story, and they would be very unlikely to catch up, even the most motivated of student. Think about it: if it were easy to read a novel and pass exams without a teacher's guidance, then there would be no teachers.

Some parents say it is their only holiday for the year, that it is only affordable because the prices of flights and resorts are cheaper, but why should they care about saving a few pounds when their child's education is on the line? Students can't go back to re-sit numerous times if they don't pass exams needed for future employment. Missing key learning for a holiday can ruin a child's future.

Why should you risk your child's future life for a holiday?

If a holiday is that important to parents, they should prepare for it, to ensure it won't interfere with their child's education. All it takes is a calendar, to know when the six week holidays are, and a savings account to start putting aside money towards the big event. A little patience and organisation can result in a great family trip; after all, the fines paid out later are often just as much as the savings the family might save by having the holiday during term-time.

To conclude, no student should have time off for holidays; it can have a detrimental effect on their future. Students can, of course, have time off for illness. Staying in school means good prospects for their future and, of course, there's no stopping them from having holidays at anytime once they are adults themselves.

News, Politics and Current Affairs:

Has Microsoft Xbox Game Pass changed how we buy Xbox Games?

By Callum Mitchell, Year 9

I think that Microsoft Xbox 'Game Pass' has changed the way that you buy Xbox games, because it allows all Xbox users to download games as soon as they are released in stores, meaning you no longer need to buy that game in stores.

This sounds good for Xbox gamers, but it is really bad for gaming store owners, because it means that gaming store companies won't be getting as much money from Xbox games. One gaming store company owner in Austria has banned the Xbox One consoles from their stores because of the Xbox Game Pass, and this could become a trend.

Moto GP 2018

By Lucille Lowery, Year 8

The Moto GP Championship is the pinnacle class of world championship road racing. It developed primarily in Europe after the FIM (Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme) consolidated the regulations for motorcycle competition for the first time in 1949. In the past, the premier class was the 500cc class of the Road Race World Championships, but in 2002, the regulation

was changed to create the Moto GP class in which 2-stroke machines of up to 500 cc and 4-stroke machines of up to 990 cc competed together.

The regulation was changed again in 2004 to limit the Moto GP class to four-stroke machines only, and the displacement limit was reduced to 800 cc in the regulation from the 2007 season. Since then, new regulations have also made a single maker the sole supplier of tyres for Moto GP, limited the number of tyres that can be used by a team during race week and reduced the number of test days.

Anyway, the Moto GP dates say that they start on 19th March 2018 to 18th of November, so it lasts about 8 months. You'd better get revved up for the match because one of the riders, Jonas Folger, will not be competing because of illness.

"I'm incredibly sad to be saying this, but I will not be racing MotoGP in 2018," said Folger. "I wasn't able to make the improvements I was hoping for, and at this stage I don't feel able to ride a MotoGP machine at 100 percent. I hope to be back one day and want to thank you all for your ongoing support." Folger's absence leaves Tech 3 needing to rapidly find a replacement, with Poncharal adding the news was "hard to swallow".

To watch, you need a special TV pass, which costs £160 a year.

Top 10 memes 2017

By Joe Shackley, Year 7

2017 has been a year full of cringy and good memes.

Here are my top ten memes:

10. John cena
9. Who Would Win?
8. Dat Boi
7. You on kazoo
6. We are number one (Hey!)
5. Its everyday bro (England is my city?)
4. I am the senate
3. Illuminati confirmed
2. MLG
1. Mans Not Hot (da ting goes...)

Mayan Secrets Uncovered in Archaeological Bombshell

By Lauren Williams, Elizabeth Gray and Isabella Aaltio, Year 9

Finally, after ten months of dedicated exploration, a devoted team of archaeologists have finally reached the holy grail of the archaeological world. The tunnels, spanning an incredible 216 miles (that's 347 kilometres), are a series of impeccably astounding subterranean caverns. However, this sunken treasure is not only a magnificent natural manifestation, it could reveal lost secrets about the Mayan civilisation.

The region hosts an astounding 358 submerged cave systems, representing 1,400 kilometres of flooded fresh water tunnels hidden under the surface.

"It's a tunnel of time that transports you to a place 10,000 to 12,000 years ago," says lead archaeologist.

Updates from around the Globe

Before now, there were originally two different cave systems, however, research has helped with the discovery that the two systems, Sac Actun and Dos Ojos are actually connected by a large cavity in the network.

Although, despite this great victory, it is believed that there are still many tunnels connecting the whole complex. These tunnels could truly help historians to delve into Mayan history – with a much deeper understanding than ever before.

"We've recorded more than 100 archaeological elements: the remains of extinct fauna, early humans, Maya archaeology, ceramics, and Maya graves."

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Will we see Toys R Us in the future?

By Callum Mitchell, Year 9

Will we see Toys R Us in the future? Well, I don't think so because buying stuff from our smart phones or buying stuff online is much easier than going out to the shop and buying them. Buying toys online is easier and because of this ¼ of Toys R Us stores are closing down. This is an example of showing that people don't want to go out to toy stores and buy toys for their kids. There could be a couple of reasons for this. Firstly, it is often really expensive to buy a toy in a shop, whereas if you buy a toy online and get it delivered to you, it will usually be at a cheaper price. Secondly, it's easier because you don't have to drive to that toy store to get a toy that your kid will want.

Country side code

By Emily Balais, Year 10

I'm sure many of you like to travel and walk along in the beautiful countryside. And here are the rules you MUST follow when you are in the countryside.

1. Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs. Take maps or guidebooks. Be prepared for any changes in weather. Let someone know you are going and how long you plan

to be. Learn signs and symbols that are used in the countryside.

2. Leave gates and property as you find them. Farmers may leave their gates open to allow their animals to move, so leave an open gate open, and a closed gate closed. Follow paths where crops are growing. Use gates or stiles if possible. Do not destroy or damage historical sites. Do not interfere with machinery or livestock.

3. Protect plants and animals and take your litter home. Don't damage, destroy, or remove features such as plants and rocks. Give wildlife and farm animals space as they can be unpredictable. Be careful not to drop matches or smouldering cigarettes.

4. Keep dogs under close control. By law, you must control your dog so it does not disturb plants and other animals. Farmers are, by law, are entitled to destroy a dog that injures or worries their animals. Always clean up after your dog and clean up its mess responsibly.

5. Consider other people. Respect the needs of other people. By law, cyclists must give way to walkers and horse riders on a bridleway.

Wolf Escapes After Winds In Berkshire Now Captured Once Again

By Lucille Lowery Y8

A wolf in Berkshire was found 10 miles away from home. He was freed when the wind blew down his fence, allowing him to escape. His name is Torak and fled from the Wolf Conservation Trust's site in Beenham.

After he escaped, people got text messages, warning them of the loose wolf and schools were warned as well. The text message urged them to stay inside. It consisted of, 'TVP warning – a wolf has escaped from a sanctuary in Beenham, Reading. Officers have sight of the wolf. Schools in the area have been informed.'

Earlier, a helicopter was found circling overhead and a specialist animal capture firm was recruited to help them find Torak. He had been spotted in various locations, some 10 miles West of the sanctuary. One parent said that the police were outside his son's school, possibly searching for the wolf.

He was on the loose for six hours.

Speculative Fiction

Students ask themselves *what if...* and here are their ideas.

First Order Vs Earth (Part 1):

The Air Forces

By Nathan Billups, Year 9

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

It is 11.11.17 and a new planet has come up on the scanners of a First Order Star Destroyer, on a scouting mission looking for an oxygen rich planet containing rich deposits of aluminium. The Star Destroyer scrambles the fleet of ties and landing vessels and alerts Supreme Leader Snoke of their discovery. Snoke tells the fleet to engage but to leave the planet unharmed.

The first group of ties would swarm over the Atlantic triggering multiple alarms and sending multiple warnings to people all over the world. The first thing the First Order ties would see would be multiple

missiles heading in their direction as military tensions would be at an all-time high. It would be at this time that the tie pilots would scramble to avoid the barrage and discover the little affect the wings of the ties would have in the Earth's atmosphere. From this point on, the ties would have to work on their little engine power alone. This would wipe out a large amount of the tie fleet alone. By this time, further scans of the UFOs would show them to be similar to that of Earth's planes and jets.

Jets from Fort Bragg and other large military bases would form their air forces to tackle the ties. With The lack of mobility of the ties and the high mobility of the jets, the ties would have little chance. The First Order's only option would be to escort as many troop transports as possible to the surface and wait for the backup. The ground war would be the First Order's only hope.

Inferno Squad: Return of the Jedi to the Battle of Jakku

By Alex Law, Year 10

The single-player story mode campaign in *Star Wars Battlefront II* takes place largely between *Return of the Jedi* and the final stand-off between the Empire and the Rebels above Jakku. In the game, you play as Iden Versio, the Imperial Special Forces commando unit, and you witness the fall off the Empire, as Emperor Palpatine's plot to lure an unsuspecting Rebel Alliance fleet into a trap using himself and the second Death Star falls apart, due to his fatal mistake of underestimating the rebels.

The game's narrative is large and immersive, taking the player far beyond the end of *Return of the Jedi* and filling the narrative holes nicely. For example, after Admiral Versio tells Iden that the Emperor has died, a messenger droid displays a hologram of the dead Emperor giving his last command: to begin Operation Cinder. Admiral Versio sends Iden to an Imperial shipyard to protect Moff Raythe and his Star Destroyer Dauntless which hosts experimental satellites important to the success of Operation

Cinder. The Dauntless comes under attack from a Rebel Cruiser but Iden is able to board it with Hask and disable its ion cannons. Afterwards, they are ordered to attack the Imperial shipyard in order to free the Star Destroyer from the locked clamps and the Dauntless opens fire on the Rebel cruiser, destroying it.

What is good about the game's story mode, without giving too much away, is how it brings in and develops many of the arcs featured in *The Force Awakens*. For example, at one point in the game, Iden and Inferno Squad are then sent to Takodana (featured in *The Force Awakens*) to find Han Solo, who is extracting an Imperial defector carrying critical data in hopes of liberating Kashyyyk and freeing the Wookiees. Later, the Imperial fleet, now crippled, make a last stand at Jakku (also featured in *The Force Awakens*).

This game is a must for any true *Star Wars* fan.

How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse (Part 2)

By Jacob Bleu Linney, Year 8

Following my first article about survival against the undead, this is a less geography based... and more exciting than the last one!

To start off, when the initial outbreak happens, you need to gather supplies and then call a friend. This is because it is vital to have another person with you—max three is the best route to go.

Next, you will need weapons. Firearms are normally good but if you don't have a mid-apocalyptic shopping trip anywhere, you can get a weapon, even a shovel will do. You will also benefit from having a radio or a way of communicating with the world. And, as a nice addition that could potentially save your life, you should get a leather jacket which will protect you from bites.

Now you have your survivors, your weapons and your awesome jacket, you need to find a place to stay, preferably very far away from any shopping centre or city but near some sort of civilisation so you can get food and cars and clothes. But here is one rule to survival in the situation: never save a stranger. It may seem immoral (because it probably is), but this is about survival and if you do decide to be a hero, they will probably betray you later on. It is also bad to have too many people in your group because they will start infighting in the group, which will ultimately lead to either them killing each other or they could be careless in an argument and be loud enough to draw a horde your way and they will probably be hungry.

If you're lucky and find a special weapon like a minigun, you should preferably leave it, because there are many flaws to this type of firearm: it will be too heavy to carry around for long, too noisy and the bullet consumption will make only good for a one-time use.

Finally, one last bit of advice is, if you want to trade with other survivor groups, raid the libraries; no one will be needing the goods on the inside of it.

And with that, this is the end of the guide.

Good luck, but hopefully you should never need it!

Creative Corner

The Lonely Panda

By Grace Clowrey, Year 7

Lying flat on her furry back, Yoon-Mi sighed. She was bored. Completely and utterly bored. She had already eaten her noon-time meal of bamboo and had nothing to do. She had everything that she could want in her large enclosure: bamboo, toys and water. But what she really wanted was a friend; someone to roll around down the dewy grass hills with.

Just weeks ago, Yoon-Mi had moved from her family room to here, her own personal space. At the time, she had savoured her new-found freedom – now she just felt alone. Her mother (Fae-Fae) had told her “not to worry,” but even Yoon-Mi's beautiful, natural surroundings couldn't cheer her up.

The next day, there was a commotion at the zoo. Although they were extremely rare, a new resident had been rescued from the treacherous wild, alone and scared.

Later that day, there came an unknown zoo-keeper to Yoon-Mi's paddock. In his arms was...

A young panda! He was the same age as Yoon-Mi and because of this, the zoo had decided to house them together. She was ecstatic – no longer all alone.

The first words that she heard him say were, “My name is Jinn – what's yours?” Yoon-Mi asked him what he liked to do and he whispered what his “most favourite” game was.

So they rolled down the dewy grass hills together. Friends forever.

A few years later, on an ordinary enough day, there was a commotion at the zoo. A new baby had been born from a rare species.

Yoon-Mi smiled at the baby panda in her arms.

She would never be lonely again.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions



Media and Review:

Twenty One Pilots New Album In 2018?

By Lucille Lowery, Year 8

Twenty One Pilots is a band that originated in Columbus, Ohio in the U.S, hometown of their lead singer, Tyler Joseph. They play in five genres: alternative hip hop, electropop, indie pop, pop rock and rap rock. The current members are Josh Dun and Tyler Joseph, who is married to Jenna Joseph. Tyler Joseph does the lead vocals, piano, keyboards, synthesizers, ukulele and bass. While Josh Dun used to do the percussion, he now focuses on the drums.

They have won a lot of music awards, including the Most Dedicated Fans award in 2015 (and again in 2017!), Artist of the Year in 2016, Best Fanbase in 2016, and Best Pop/Duo Award of the Year in 2017. They have over 4 million fans. The fan base is called the Skeleton Clique or also known as The clique.

Now that there have been a few teasers on Blurryface's profile, which is verified by Tyler Joseph and is not a fan account, fans are going crazy over them. There has been a theory that they'll have more of a slow tempo now after the Blurryface album. On Twitter, there has been an image of an eye that is closing, leading the fans think the Blurryface era is ending but he will come back. There is lyrics in the eyes with different songs: 'Oh Ms Believer', 'Slowtown', 'Truce', 'Kitchen Sink', 'Message Man', 'Stay Alive Frens l-/ and 'Car Radio'.

THE TORCH Journalists

This edition was produced by Phoebe Orwin, Cadence Taylor, Grace Clowrey, Hari Sukumar, Anna Gray, Ngai Wa Yuen, Ellisia Bowman, Elena Cretu, Joe Shackley, Alex Burrows, Elena Cretu, Jacob Linney, Lucille Lowery, Daniel Nutley, Bella Aaltio, Elizabeth Gray, Charlotte Ting, Caitie Swallow (proofreading), Rebeka Brinkus, Lauren Williams, Nathan Billups, Callum Mitchell, Molly Hammerton, Kiara Fenton, Alex Law, Tiesha Pearce, Emily Balais and Miss Taylor. Thanks also to William Broad, Abigail Hampson, Mr Bishop, Miss Perry and all the other staff who support us each edition.

If you are interested in helping to produce THE TORCH, come along to F24 on Thursday afternoons, 3-4 pm, or see Miss Taylor for more information.

Joseph also stated that when the poem was too long, he would rap. They have had past members that was called Nick Thomas and Chris Salih. There is a rumour that Rivers Cuomo, who has done collabs with many singers, might be collaborating with Twenty One Pilots because he got Tyler's iPhone password.

Devon Druid, who acts in 13 Reasons Why', also posted a tweet saying 'Just realized the dash in the E's replaced the Ø and their profile picture is just the dash. Wonder if the / & - correlate to their logo'. That was tweeted on 7th July 2017. Fans are still questioning what it means and they have been on hiatus for a while so maybe Tyler is planning songs and practicing but not leaking anything. They might be messing with our heads even.

There were also the words 'Light' and 'Echo' on their website. We may not know until they release songs or the album. Wikipedia says the band's new album as Silence with a drop date of February 11th 2018. The post has since been deleted. Silence has been a rumoured title for some time after the band posted the phrase on their social feeds and website to signify their current hiatus. But you could just edit Wikipedia so it may be false.

Movies Coming Out In 2018

By Ellisia Bowman, Year 7

These are some of the movies that are coming out in 2018 that you definitely shouldn't miss!

1. Maze Runner: The Death Cure [26th Jan]
2. Black Panther [12th Feb]
3. Avengers Infinity War [27th April]
4. Jurassic Park: The Fallen Kingdom [08th June]
5. Pacific Rim [23rd March]
6. The Predator [3rd August]
7. Ant-Man And The Wasp [29th June]
8. Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes Of Grindewald [16th Nov]
9. Deadpool 2 [01st June]
10. Solo: A Star Wars Story [25th May]

Film, Music and More



Most watched TV shows in 2017

By Rebeka Brinkus, Year 9

1. Blue Planet II-14.01 Million Views
2. Strictly Come Dancing-13.01 Million Views
3. I'm A Celebrity...Get me out of here-12.69 Million Views
4. One Love Manchester-11.63 Million Views
5. Broadchurch-11.61 Million Views
6. Britain's Got Talent-11.51 Million Views
7. Sherlock-11.33 Million Views
8. Call the Midwife-10.63 Million Views
9. New Year's Eve Fireworks-10.4 Million Views
10. The Moorside-10.23 Million Views

Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi Review

By Emily Baliass, Year 10

Finally, the film we have all been waiting for has arrived. *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* was realised in cinemas on the 14th December 2018. But it differed from many expectations. For example, some people thought that they would tell us the identity of Rey's parents; instead, they said that they were no one.

Also, I'm sure many people found Supreme Leader Snoke's death unexpected. Something else that would have been a shock is if Kylo Ren had turned to the light side; after Snoke was killed, Rey and Kylo Ren battled against Snoke's praetorian guards and I'm sure that many people thought this was about to happen. But everything changed after General Hux found out that Snoke was killed, and Ren blamed it on Rey.

One more thing that took a few people by surprise (me included) was the death of Luke. He died the same way that Obi-Wan Kenobi did.

I'm sure many people cannot wait for the next film in the franchise, *Star Wars: Episode IX*, which is said to come out in May 2019, and there are also a couple of spin off films to look forward to: *Han Solo* in May 2018 and a *Boba Fett* film is said to come out in 2020.

Fantastic Beasts the Crimes of Grindelwald: What we know so far

By Emily Balaiss, Year 10

The next film in the *Fantastic Beasts* universe is approaching rapidly on 16th November 2018, and Pottermore have released this photo including all of the main characters in this new film.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

From left to right: Albus Dumbledore, Credence Barebone, Unknown name, Leta Lestrange, Theseus Scamander, Tina Goldstone, Newt Scamander, Jacob Kowalski, Queenie Goldstone, Gellert Grindelwald.

It is shown that the woman who was Newt's 'school crush', Leta Lestrange, has a love for his older brother Theseus, and we are shown a new character sitting next to Credence who looks like she cares for him. We will also be seeing Nicholas Flamel (the creator of the *Philosophers Stone*) in this film. I'm sure that when fans realised that Newt, Tina, Queenie and Jacob are going to be in it they thought it was a miracle as three out of four of them are based in New York. It is possible that we could be seeing people from the MACUSA in this film as Carmen Ejogo has been cast as Seraphina Picquery but there is no sign of Percival Graves on the cast list.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

We are also shown this circus ticket implying that we will be seeing a circus that could attract Newt and friends because of what's on it, a two headed lion, giraffe and girl and there is also the enchanting snake girl.

Sport Update

Juan's the Man: Footballer of the Year

By Daniel Nutley, Year 9

Juan Mata, a brilliant footballer without a doubt. However, most people would be surprised if I told you he won *The Guardian* Footballer of the Year for 2017. Not because he didn't do well in 2017; in fact, he won the Europa League with Manchester United, but because of all the other players around the world that maybe were more successful in the last calendar year. However, it wasn't the Spaniard's footballing performances in 2017 for which *The Guardian* gave him the award; it was his Common Goal initiative that inspired the newspaper to award him.

So what is this Common Goal initiative? This foundation, set up by Juan Mata, has footballers, and others involved in the industry, pledge a minimum 1% of their salary to the Common Goal collective fund. This fund is then allocated to football charities to help improve lives around the world.

Since its set up in October 2017, no less than 35 people have joined Mata in his efforts to make football a more accessible sport. The initiative already boasts a roster of world class footballers and people in the industry such as Mats Hummels, Georgio Chiellini, and women's footballers, Alex Morgan and Megan Rapino.

What Mata is doing is a brilliant movement forward in the world of football but he isn't the only charitable top football star. Footballers often get a bad rep for being selfish and only in the game for the money but along with Juan Mata there are other footballers who are using their fame to improve the lives of others.

Image removed due to licensing restrictions

Rio Ferdinand, Bobby Zamora and Mark Noble have also worked together to make their own foundation which is called Legacy, which recognizes that during times of austerity, Local Authorities are looking for innovative ways of delivering social and affordable housing for their tenants as well as building schools, hospitals and surgeries to support the local community.

Very different to Juan Mata's foundation, Legacy will help to build affordable housing as well as hospitals and schools.

Cristiano Ronaldo has also set up a cancer centre on the Portuguese island of Madeira, his birthplace.

So, in my opinion, I believe that Juan Mata is a worthy recipient of *The Guardian* Footballer of the Year because he is striving to improve the lives of others as well as showing that footballers aren't all as selfish as the stereotype would tell you!

The Ashes 2017-18 Result

By Emily Balais, Year 10

As the Ashes come to a close, the England cricket team are heading back to the UK from a long Christmas holiday in Australia, where the Australians won all five test matches.

Many things happened while they were over there; Ben Duckett was suspended after he pored beer over a fellow team member, James Anderson. Also, the captain Joe Root was sent to the hospital suffering

from dehydration, diarrhoea and vomiting on the forth day of the last test match—though his recovery for the last day didn't make a difference.

Overall, the trip wasn't a complete success but at least the England team got to have a great Christmas down under, touring the cities of Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.